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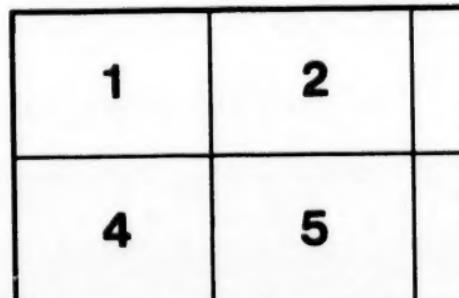
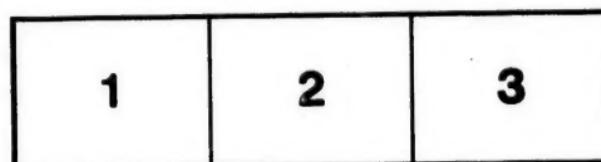
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## A SHORT CONTROVERSY IN REGARD TO THE AD RELIGION INTO POLITICS, AND INCIDENTA

Dr. Ryerson, M.P.P., of Toronto having in recent speeches, and in his *Address to the Separate Schools* as by the Imperial law established in this Province, (Province of Quebec), and having seen fit to indulge in language grossly abusive, and in my judgment, calculated to mislead, alleging that they, (the Catholic Hierarchy), had been bought by special favoritism, and that the Catholic Church had been brought into the service of the Government, by other considerations, and, with the Catholic laity of the Province, stood in opposition to the Government, and were the means whereby that government was kept in power, and that the Government was kept in power by the Toronto Empire by Mr. J. A. Macdonell, (Greenfield), President of the Catholic Association of Glengarry:—

To the Editor of the *Empire*

SIR,—I read in your columns a short time since a letter from my young friend, Dr. Ryerson, which was a very trenchant arraignment of the local Government, and contained much with which I and many who think with me can cordially sympathize, but which had in some respects, I venture to suggest, better have remained unwritten.

I take particular exception to Dr. Ryerson's remarks with regard to what he is pleased to term "the solid Catholic vote," which he alleges is at the beck and bidding of Sir Oliver Mowat and constitutes the backbone of his party. I challenge the truth of the statement, and as a Conservative I impugn the wisdom of its utterance and too frequent iteration.

The Government of this province is carried on for the benefit of all Her Majesty's subjects resident therein, whatever their faith and lineage. Dr. Ryerson is, I believe, of English descent and a Methodist. I, for instance, happen to be of Scotch descent and a Catholic. We agree, so far as I understand, in considering that the present Government, owing to its having been so long administered by one set of individuals, has virtually become a bureaucracy, which is repugnant to our conception of what constitutes a proper system of administration; the manipulation of the licenses for the sale of liquor and its diversion from its legitimate ends into a source of political buckstirring is entirely indefensible; it has become a positive abuse, and should be abated; the timber resources of the country we consider are being unwisely drawn upon, and being part of the provincial capital and the heritage of those who are to come after us, the Government as trustees for the time being must be held strictly to account for any improvident management of a trust so important to future generations; the frequent appointment to office of gentlemen who hold seats in the Legislature has become almost a scandal, and if continued will lead the electorate to believe that the furtherance of their own ends and the feathering of their own nests is the object which our public men have chiefly in view and that the Government encourages the practice and holds out these inducements to men to gain their political support to the detriment, if not the subversion, of political independence.

These are all matters of a public nature, fit subjects for discussion, upon which men can properly agree or agree to disagree. It is perfectly legitimate for Dr. Ryerson and myself for instance, or for any other individuals possessed of the franchise, to criticize the course of the Government in respect of them, and the Methodists and Catholics of the

province and all others can and do differ in their opinions in regard to them.

But there are certain other subjects upon which discussion is inadvisable, not unwise, inofficious, and calculated to lead to no good results.

Confederation was, owing to a variety of circumstances, a compromise, and in its nature a compact, solemn and earnestly hope and believe, ended. Under its charter, as agreed upon by the provinces ratified by the states of all parties in Britain, and promulgated by the British North America Act, certain rights were guaranteed to the Protestant minority of Lower Canada and the Catholic minority of this province in regard to their respective religious beliefs. It was reasonable and fair that it should be the case, and without this Confederation would have been, an impossibility, and without these safeguards it cannot successfully be carried on.

The Governments of the provinces representing the Crown were charged with the carrying out of the provisions of the Imperial Act appertaining to the schools, and when they fail to do so, the manner contemplated by the Act is open to the Protestants of Quebec and the Catholics of Ontario to complain. But it is a matter of no concern to the Catholics of Quebec or the Protestants of Ontario how or in what manner the schools of the other denomination are maintained or conducted, further than this, that all fair minded men in the majority in either province will be willing to let it that no injustice is done to the minority, or, if done, that they should rectify it.

I cannot call to mind an instance of complaint upon the part of the Protestant minority in Quebec in respect to non-fulfilment or improper administration of the law as regards their schools, and it is but just to the Catholic majority to state that neither political nor among that majority has ever sought to make this provision of the Imperial Act in respect to the Protestant schools or its just and liberal fulfilment a ground of attack upon the other.

Are the Protestants of Ontario more tolerant and less just than the Catholics of Quebec? Have they less respect for the solemn terms of a treaty, and are we to go to another province and tell the men of another race than ours for lessons as to how to carry out a binding upon us in honour, obligation, which the Sovereign and Parliament of Great Britain have entrusted to us?

Or is there behind it all a bias against and an intolerance of the Catholic faith; and does Dr. Ryerson represent the Conservative Catholics, such as myself, to join in a crusade against the Minto Government because it has done

## REGARD TO THE ADVISABILITY OF INTRODUCING SKIRTS, AND INCIDENTALLY, UPON BARE LEGS.

In recent speeches, and in letters addressed to the public press, attacked and established in this Province, (as are the Protestant Separate Schools in the indulgence in language grossly abusive of the Bishops of the Catholic Church, had been bought by special favours extended to the Separate Schools, and the laity of the Province, stood as a solid phalanx at the back of the present bat government was kept in power, the following letters were addressed to (Greenfield), President of the Conservative Association of the County

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tish subjects we are entitled to, and less  
than which they could not have accorded  
to us without giving us the right to  
appeal to the Parliament of Great Bri-  
tain for redress against the infraction of  
its enactment? Can it be that Dr.  
Ryerson, fresh from a contest in Lambton,  
which in the old "No Popery" days  
could always be relied upon to send to the  
Legislature a leader in the van of  
religious animosity, and which has given  
a recent evidence of a return to its old  
love for its fetish of other days, is unwise  
enough to be misled for the moment by  
the thought that those evil days have  
returned, and are permanently upon us;  
that in this free province of Ontario the  
Catholic religion is to be placed under a  
ban, and that it is wise for the Conserva-  
tive party to join forces with the  
Protestant Protective Association in its  
fight against a phantasmagoria which  
exists but in the narrow minds of those  
intolerant political partisans who consti-  
tute this excrescence upon the body  
politic? I am an older Conservative  
than the Doctor, who is yet in his politi-  
cal adolescence, and he must excuse my  
saying that his utterances will bind the  
Conservative party to no such pro-  
gramme as that nor lead us into any such  
alliance while I have voice to protest  
in the name of the Scotch Catholic  
Conservatives of this Province.

Dr. Ryerson is, I know, of distin-  
ed United Empire Loyalist stock. His  
name carries with it much that appeals  
to the gratitude and respect of the people  
of this province who cherish British in-  
stitutions, for services rendered in times  
which tried the tempers and loyalty of  
the first settlers in what then constituted  
the upper country of Canada as well as  
for more recent services in the develop-  
ment of the institutions of our province.  
It was for that reason that I was glad to  
see him enter public life, and had I  
been a resident of Toronto he would  
have had my vote and cordial support.  
The doctor, however, is none too old to  
learn and as an antidote to the lesson he  
appears to have received in Lambton I  
would ask to be permitted to inform  
him under what circumstances the  
Catholic religion was first introduced  
into the province and under what au-  
thority. It may surprise him to learn  
that it was by the United Empire  
Loyalists and by the authority of the  
King. It is well to have no misconcep-  
tion upon a matter of historical interest  
and of some importance, and I therefore  
quote in full the despatch of Lord Syd-  
ney, then Secretary for American and  
Colonial Affairs, to the Administrator of  
the Government in Canada. Should he  
wish to verify it it will be found in the  
Archives Series Q. 224, page 278.

**"LORD SYDNEY TO LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR  
HAMILTON."**

"Whitehall, 24 June, 1785.

"SIR,—Having laid before the King a memorial of Mr. Roderick Macdonell stating that at the solicitation of a considerable number of Scots Highlanders and other British Subjects of the Roman Catholic persuasion, who, prior to the last War were inhabitants of the back settlements of the Province of New York, and to whom, in consideration of their loyalty and services, lands have been lately assigned in the higher parts of Canada he is desirous of joining them in order to serve them in the capacity of a clergyman, in the humble hope that on his arrival at their settlement, he shall be allowed by Government an annual subsistence for the discharge of that duty, I enclose to you the said memorial and am to signify to you the King's commands that you do permit Mr. Macdonell to join the above mentioned settlers and officiate as their clergyman; and with respect to the allowance to be made to him, I shall take an early opportunity of communicating to you His Majesty's pleasure. I am, etc.,

"SYDNEY."

It was thus that it was introduced, and it is here to remain with the descendants of the men who thus implanted it at the same time that for the first time they raised on the shores of the upper part of the River St. Lawrence, the tattered emblem of the sovereignty of Great Britain, the outward and visible to all of their stern and unflinching political creed.

In conclusion, I would advise Dr. Ryerson the next time he evolves from his inner consciousness a pronouncement to which is to regulate the Conservative party, to promulgate one upon which all its members can unite, and I would beg of him to bear in mind that no inconsiderable portion of that party is composed of men who, professing the Catholic religion, decline to take instruction either in their obligation and loyalty to the Crown or their duty to the state from gentlemen of the Protestant Protective Association, self-constituted exponents of the doctrines of equal rights, such as Col. O'Brien, The Mail newspaper, Prof. Goldwin Smith, or even a yet from himself, whose conception of politics has not apparently advanced beyond the nebulous stage of its immature existence.

Yours, etc.,  
J. A. MACDONELL  
Glen-garry, Dec. 12.

To the arguments *ad hoc* contained in the above letter, Dr. Ryerson vouchsafed the following conclusive answer, and it will be observed with regret and much concern, that it appears, that not only is Mr. Macdonell's religious faith objectionable in the eyes of Dr. Ryerson, but that Dr. Ryerson also takes exception to Mr. Macdonell's Highland descent, and declined a contest with him on the ground that his ancestors were "bare-legged."

To the Editor of the *Empire*.

SIR,—I observe in this morning's issue a letter from Mr. J. A. Macdonell, of Glen-garry. This letter is a purely personal attack. For many years Mr. Macdonell has not condescended to recognize me. He knows best the reason. Perhaps it

may be that, being only a descendant of a United Empire Loyalist, my origin does not permit one coming so long a line of bare-legged ancestors to know me when he sees me. I do discuss the question with Mr. Macdonell.

Yours, etc.,

W. STERLING RYER

Toronto, Dec. 15.

To this Mr. Macdonell replied.

To the Editor of the *Empire*.

Sir,—Will you spare me the necessary space to remove a misapprehension in the mind of Dr. Ryerson, who considers that my letter, which appears in your issue of the 15th, was in as a personal attack upon him. It could have been further from my wish. I simply disapproved reference to "The solid Catholic and other abusions to my religion" wrote to say so. Nor should he be any chaff as to his age. Each will remedy that, and whatever hope, discretion to the good abilities he evidences, and the two combine moderation in all things and respect the rights and feelings of others. Keep well to the fore the bear name which has deserved well country, especially if he will constantly in mind that the hereditary good name carries with it obligations to a society. *Noblesse oblige* apt way in which that slogan is used in the simplest and express languages. He will I trust perceive to mention, and he will believe, am totally unaware of any reason I could have for declining to acknowledge him when we met, and never intended to do so. In the course of the practice of that branch of his profession, which he has made his own, he must know the many disadvantages, the constant, home conveniences which persons of design labour under, and he will, attribute to that and not to any intention on my part what, I gather from his letter of the 16th, and which me much regret, he considers additional and continuous want of care towards him.

I do not in the very least object to reference he makes to the bare legs ancestors. If their legs were bare, hearts were stout and true, and earned them by God's grace to assist in uniting the honour of our common country. Could it be other than a source of pride to any man to reflect that he belongs to the race of men of Lord Chatham addressing the august assemblage of the world, as: "I sought for merit wherever I could be found. It is my boast that I was first Minister who looked for found it in the Mountains of the world."

"I called it forth, and drew into service a hardy and intrepid race of men; men who, left by your country, became a prey to the artifices of your enemies, and had gone nigh to overturn the State in the War of the Revolution. These men in the last War brought to combat on your side, served with fidelity as they fought, and conquered for you in every quarter of the world."

Why should the Doctor suggest that I should look down upon him because of his U. E. Loyalist descent? Such a man would be the last man to do so. to the list prepared by Lord Dorchester.

ay be that, being only a descendant of United Empire Loyalist, my humble gin does not permit one coming from long a line of bare-legged ancestors to own me when he sees me. I decline to discuss the question with Mr. Macdonell.

Yours, etc.,  
W. STERLING RYERSON.  
Toronto, Dec. 15

To this Mr. Macdonell replied.

the Editor of the *Empire*.

Sir,—Will you spare me the necessary space to remove a misapprehension from the mind of Dr. Ryerson, who states he considers that my letter, which appeared in your issue of the 15th, was intended as a personal attack upon him. Nothing could have been further from my thought or wish. I simply disapproved of his reference to "The solid Catholic vote," and other allusions to my religion, and wrote to say so. Nor should he object to any chaff as to his age. Each day will remedy that, and will add, let us hope, discretion to the good abilities which your evidences, and the two combined with moderation in all things and respect for the rights and feelings of others, will help well to the fore the bearer of a name which has deserved well of the country, especially if he will keep constantly in mind that the heritage of a good name carries with it great obligations to society. *Noblesse oblige* is the best way in which that truth can be elicited in the most polite and expressive of languages. He will I trust permit me to mention, that he will believe, that I am totally unaware of any reason which could have for declining to acknowledge him when we met, and that I ever intended to do so. In the course of the practice of that branch of his profession, which he has made specially his own, he must know the many and great advantages, the constant, hourly inconveniences which persons of defective right labour under, and he will, I beg, tribute to that and not to any wilful position on my part what I gather from a letter of the 16th, and which causes me much regret, he considers an intentional and continuous want of courtesy towards him.

I do not in the very least object to the reference he makes to the bare legs of my ancestors. If their legs were bare their arts were stout and true, and enabled them by God's grace to assist in upholding the honour of our common country. Could it be other than a source of pride to any man to reflect that he belongs by descent to the race of men of whom Lord Chatham addressing the most august assemblage of the world, declared: "I sought for merit wherever it could be found. It is my boast that I was the first Minister who looked for it and found it in the Mountains of the North. I called it forth, and drew into your service a hardy and intrepid race of men; men who, left by your jealousy, became a prey to the artifices of your enemies, and had gone nigh to have returned the State in the War before us. These men in the last War were ought to combat on your side. They served with fidelity as they fought with honour, and conquered for you in every quarter of the world."

Why should the Doctor suggest that I could look down upon him because of my U. E. Loyalist descent? Surely I could be the last man to do so. I turn the list prepared by Lord Dorchester,

who stated that his object was "to put a Mark of Honour upon the families who had adhered to the Unity of the Empire \* \* \* to the end that their posterity might be discriminated from future settlers \* \* \* as proper objects, by their persevering in the Fidelity and Conduct so honourable to their ancestors for distinguished Benefits and Privileges," and I find that that list contains two gentlemen of his name and 84 bare-legged individuals of mine, while among the latter every Commissioned Officer, of whom the list displays 16, who had fought through that long War was a blood relation of my own.

If the Doctor will consider of these matters he will recognize that there is much in common between us—bar of course bare legs and religion, in which respects I confess to the primitive condition and faith of my forebears.

Yours, etc., J. A. MACDONELL.  
Glenarry, Dec. 18.

It is understood that it is now in contemplation by the authorities at the Horse Guards to abolish the kilts in the Highland Regiments, while the tartans of the Clans will be seen and the music of the pipes will be heard on the battle-fields or the battle-field no more—all on account of Dr. Ryerson's rooted antipathy.

*Ergo Caledonia nomen inane vale.*

The deeds of our sires if our bards should renounce,  
Let a noise or a blow be the meed of their vers;  
Be mute every string and be hush'd every tone,  
That all bid us remember the fame that is flown.

Blenheim, Ruyelles, Oudenarde, Malplaquet, Louisburg, St. Lucia, Dettingen, Blenheim, Mandora, Lincelles, Minden, Eymoutier Zee, St. Lucia, Quebec, Ticonderoga, Maids, Alexandria, Java, Martinique, Guadaloupe, Mangalore, Hoogstoek, Seringapatam, Assaye, Cape of Good Hope, Reibia, Vimiera, Corunna, Buaca, Fuentes D'Onor, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Almaraz, Salamanca, Vittoria, St. Sebastian, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes, Toulouse, Nazara, Waterloo, Nagpore, Mysore, Ava, South Africa, Delhi, Lucknow, Central India, Peiwar Kotal, Charasiah, Alma, Balaklava, Inkerman, Sevastopol, Pekin, Kabul, Kandahar, Afghanistan, Abyssinia, Egypt, Ashantee, Tel-el-Kebir, Nile.



